



...A JOURNEY THROUGH

ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

Presented by:

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THROUGH this lecture we will answer..

- **WHAT** We will learn Main *characteristics* some *terminologies* one would notice in I A
 - **HOW** *Understand* concepts and philosophy behind I A
 - **WHY** *Analysis* of why certain things where put in certain way
-

ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

What is architecture?

What is Islam?



What is ARCHITECTURE?

•STANDS FOR THE ART AND SCIENCE OF DESIGNING STRUCTURE AND THEIR SURROUNDINGS IN KEEPING WITH AESTHETICS, FUNCTIONAL OR OTHER CRITERIA.



ARCHITECTURE - CULTURE



- Architecture serves as a physical vessel, a container of human activity.

- Expression of one culture philosophy, believe, traditions, geography, economy and social state.. Spiritual and communal state.



ARCHITECTURE - CULTURE

- Its what gives a particular culture a unique identity through distinguished characteristics (Tangible).

- Every building therefore, is constructed in accordance with laws of physics in ways that crystallized the cultural values of its builders.





ARCHITECTURE - CULTURE

- The silent cultural language that every building expresses

(Islamic Architecture)



What is Islam?

SURRENDER TO ALMIGHTY ALLAH

SUBMISSION TO HIS WILL

OBEY HIS COMMANDMENTS

SINCERE WORSHIP ONLY FOR HIM

PEACE IN MIND, HEART & SOUL

-
- Those who practice such devotion and submit themselves to the will of Allah are Muslims.
 - To Muslims.. Islam is not only a religion but rather a complete way of life

(Islamic Architecture)

Islamic architecture

All the architectural production from the age of Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) *7th century* to the mean time including all islamic world.

you may find variety of styles and individualities in the islamic architecture through its long period in history and wide scope of regions



•Main concepts and philosophies:



•**Monotheism** (will shape the islamic architecture and would give it a unique identity / draw the main character of islamic architecture) how? (we will be discussing that in further details using buildings, structural elements, neighborhoods and cities)

•**Symbolic architecture (Ka'aba)**

•**Masjids and their relation to Ka'aba (physical and spiritual direction)**

•**Islamic values and culture** shapping islamic city / neighborhood

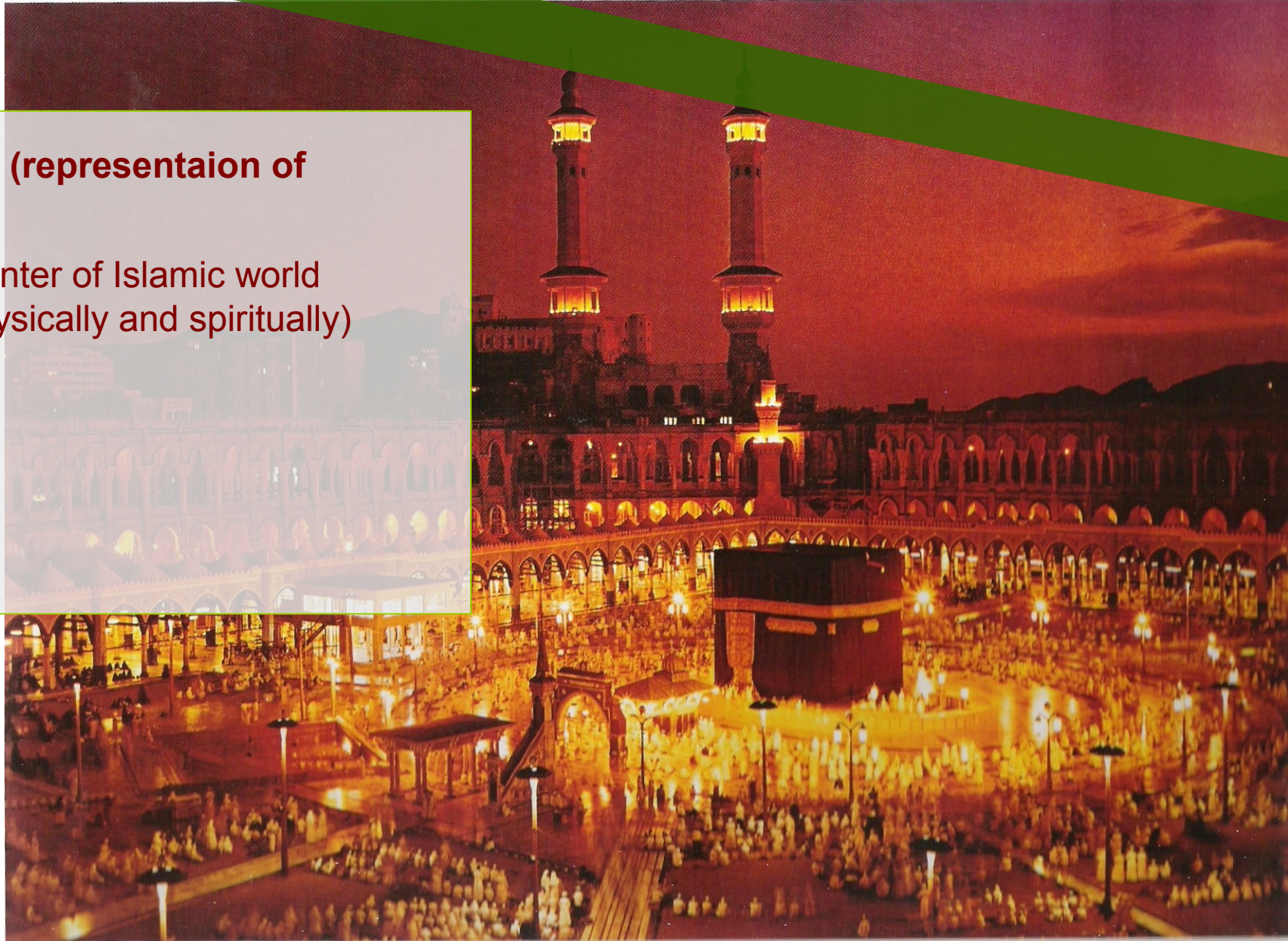
•**Geographic and Climatic conditions** shape islamic city



•Ka'aba:

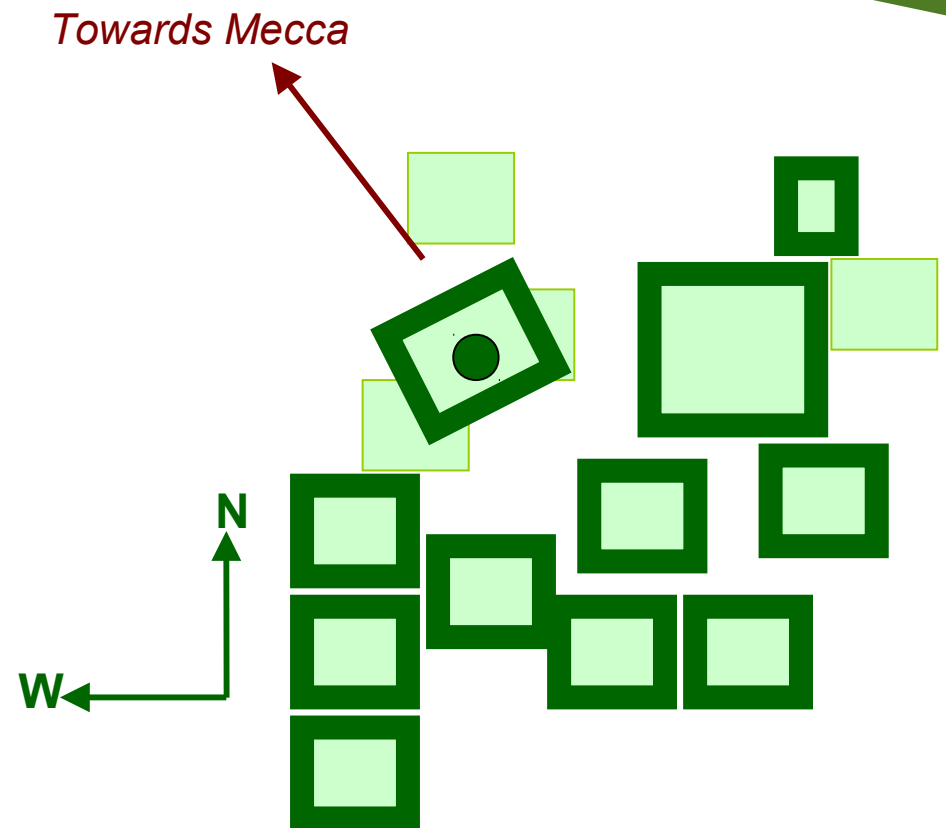
•Ka'aba (representaion of what?)

•Center of Islamic world (physically and spiritually)



•Ka'aba:

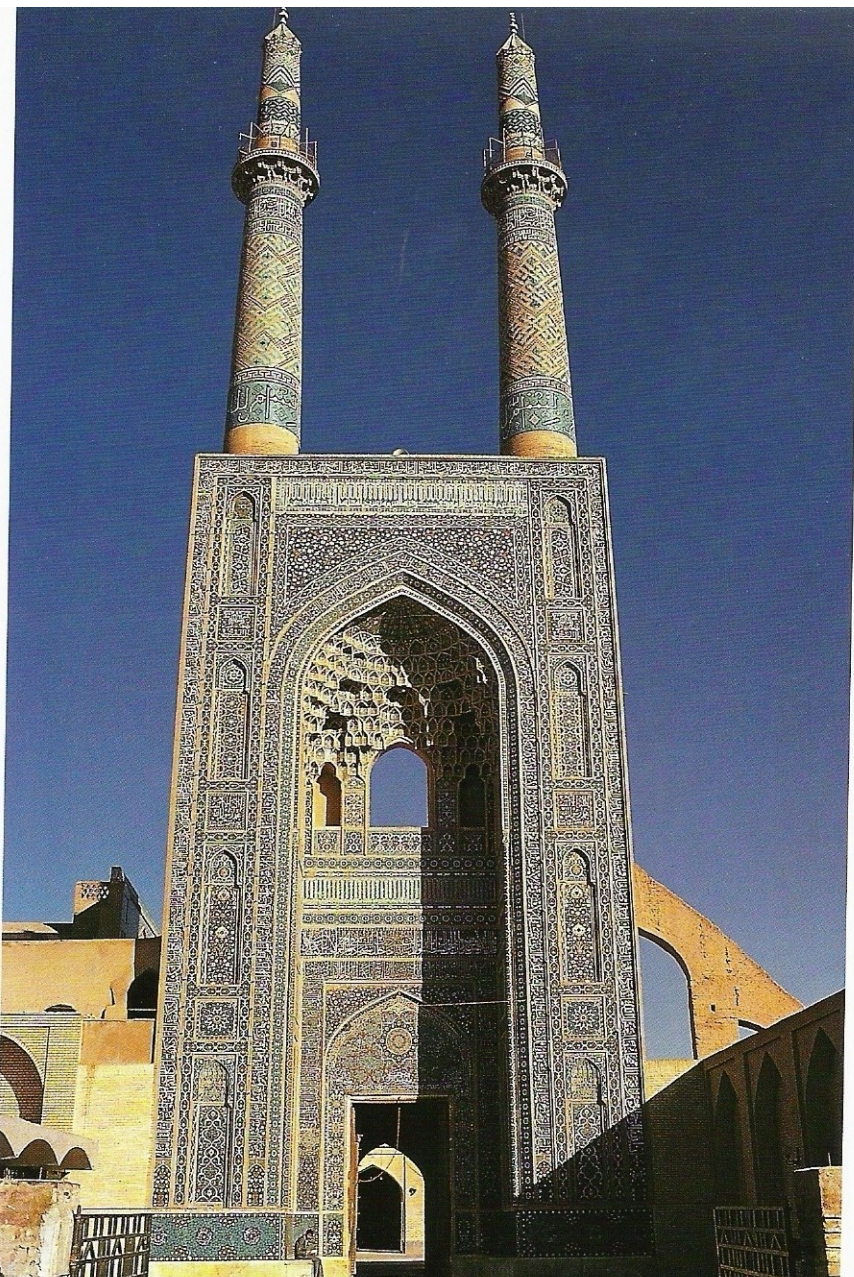
•All masjids respecting the direction of qibla



•Ka'aba:

•All masjids respecting the direction of qibla

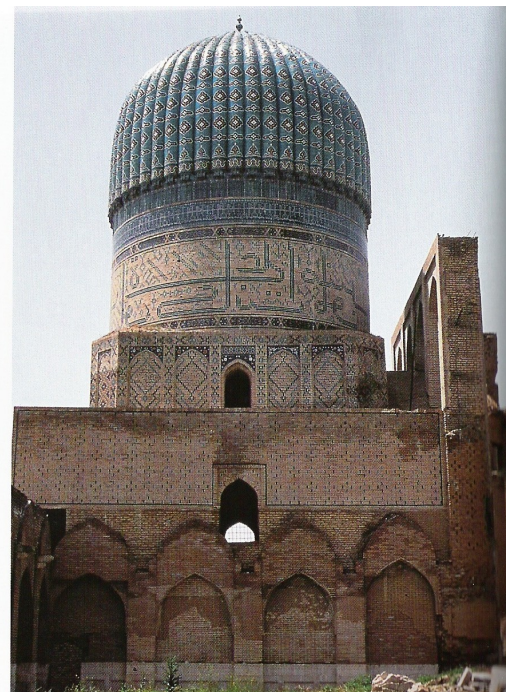
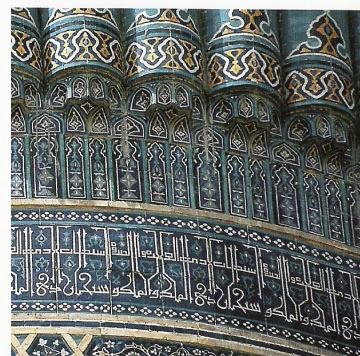




of a domed side
in Friday Mosque,

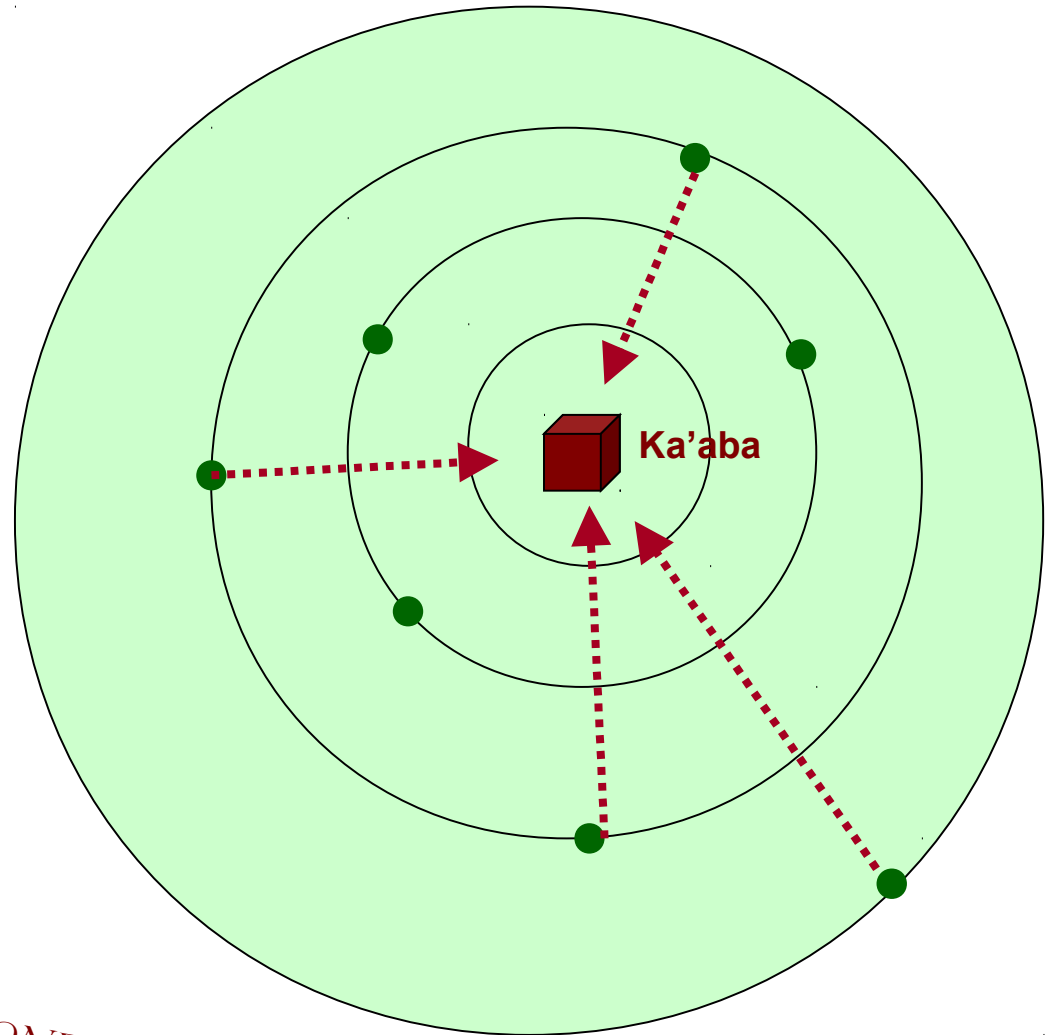
nd Friday mosques
ans on their cross-
rid Bibi Khanum
mosques" in this
the courtyard side
l the enormous,
e end of the longi-
smaller in scale.

The high outer dome of the building, which covers a structural inner dome, is stabilized by projecting brick ribs and is remarkable primarily for its splendid polychrome tile covering, which displays ornamental features and inscriptive bands.



The world

Taking a zoom out view of the world we will notice that ..All Masjids **all over the world** regardless of their differences or style or schools of thought, they ALL are facing the **same direction**.. Creating an amazing unity among them..



WORSHIPING ONE GOD.. FACING ONE DIRECTION ALL OVER THE WORLD

Masjid / Mosque

Technically, it means a “*place of prostration*” that’s is to say where believers bow their heads to the ground in veneration of G and as part of a well-defined ritual of prayers.

The importance of Mosque in Islamic Architecture is not only that it’s a place of Worship.. But also a place of social activities and part of daily life of people.



Masjid / Mosque

It contains Symbolic and functional feature, each one of which has its own history.

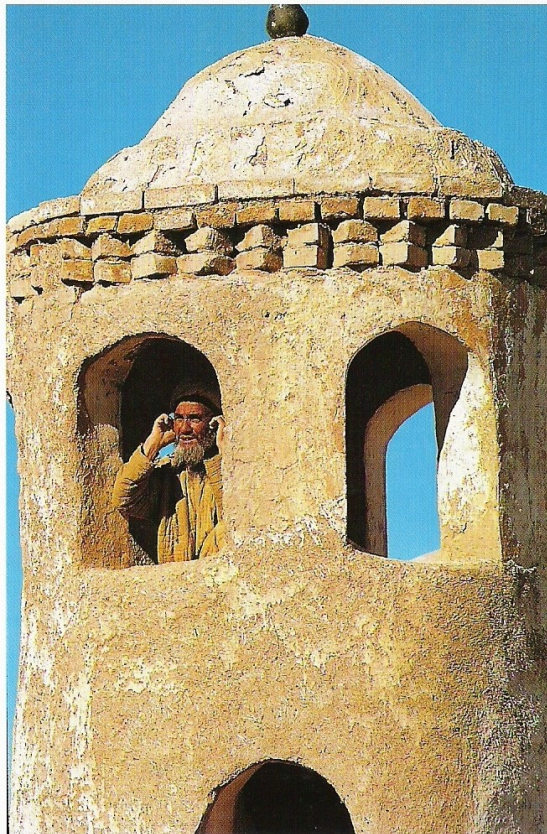
Major characteristics of Mosque:

- **Mihrab**: a niche indicating the Qibla (direction of prayer)
- Found in all mosques.. And has become the most decorative part of the building
- Often with lamps symbolizing the divine presence and the universality of the muslim Message.



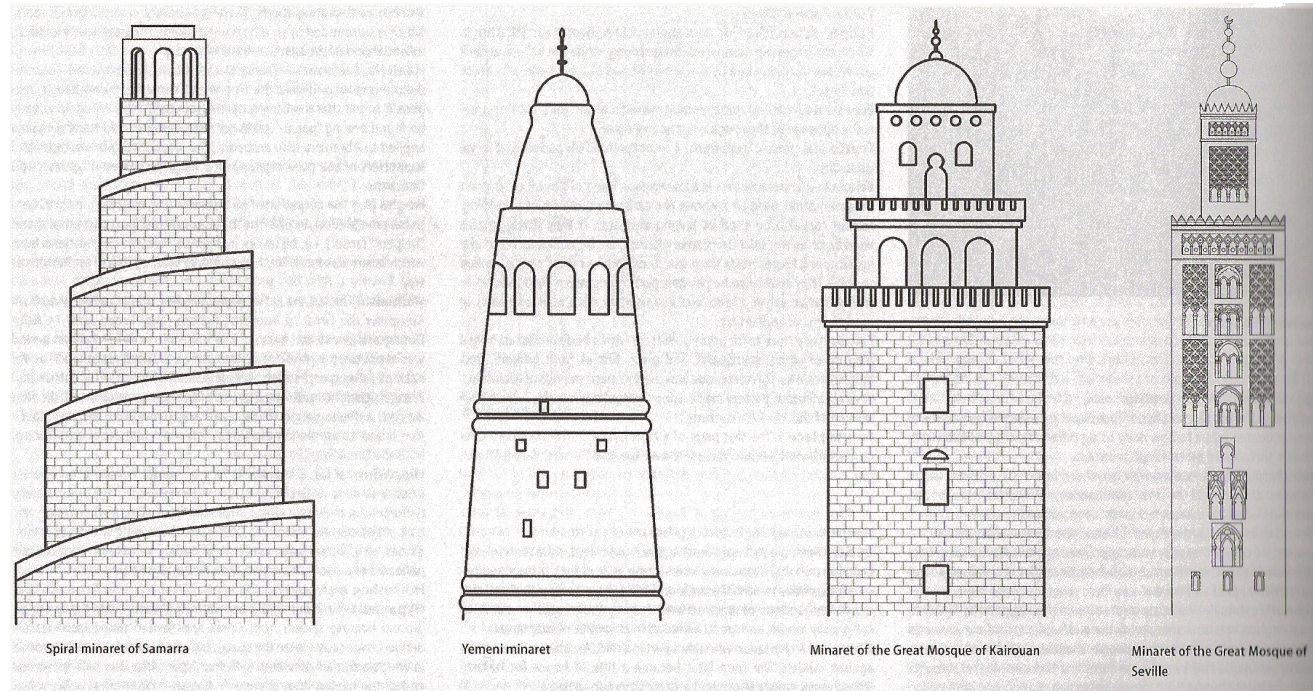
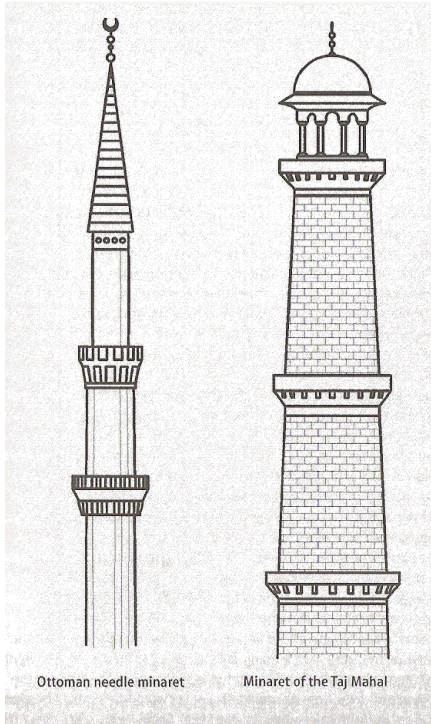
Masjid / Mosque

Minaret: the place from which the faithful are called to prayer



Masjid / Mosque

Minaret: the place from which the faithful are called to prayer



Masjid / Mosque

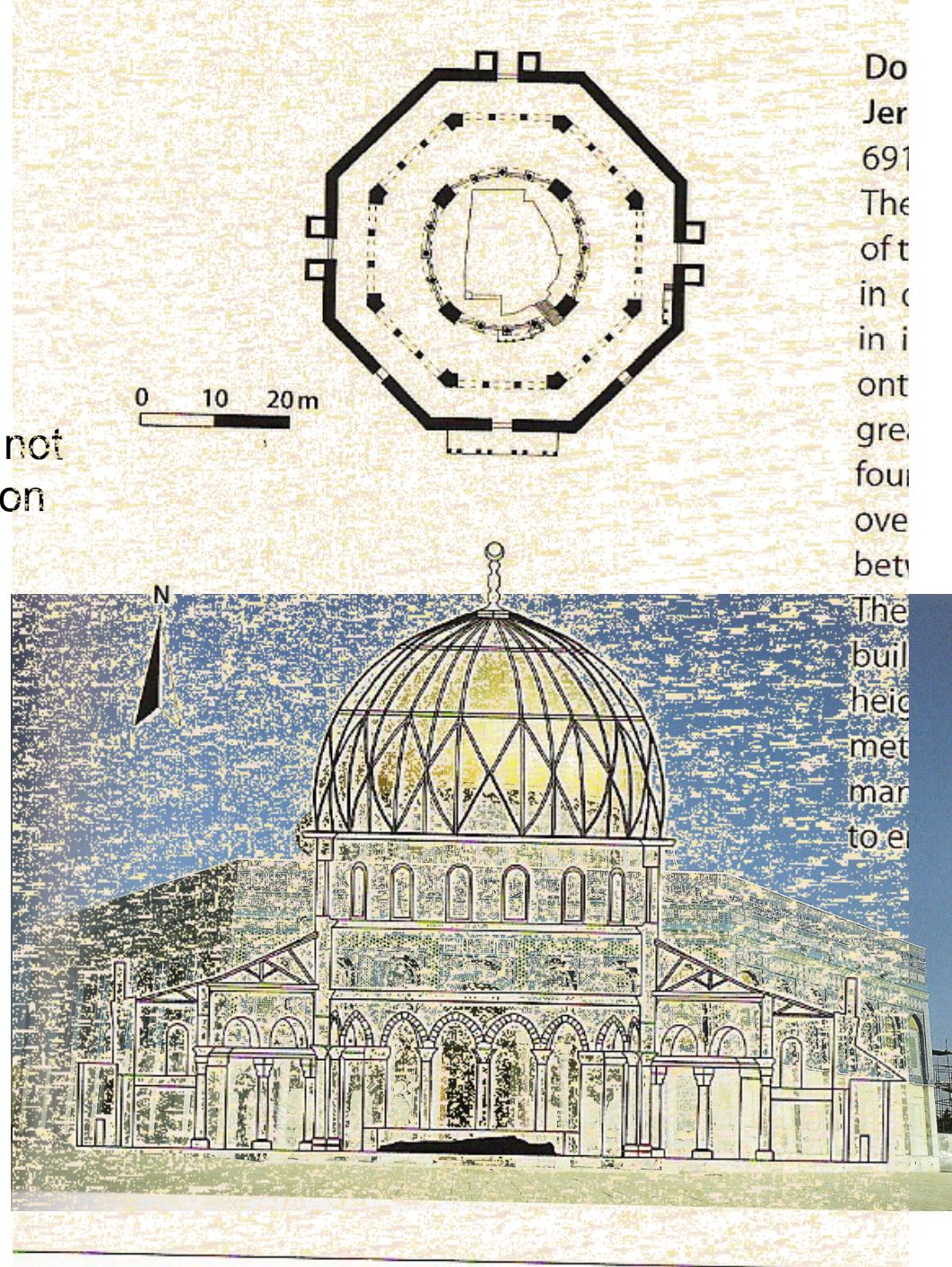
Dome: a vault of even curvature erected on a circular base or drum.

Muslims used domes in mosques to increase the span of the prayer hall, not mentioning that it was a representation of the sky.

Ground plan of the Dome of the Rock is strictly octagonal in outline with 4 gateway onto the temple square.

Supported by 4 pillars, with four arches.

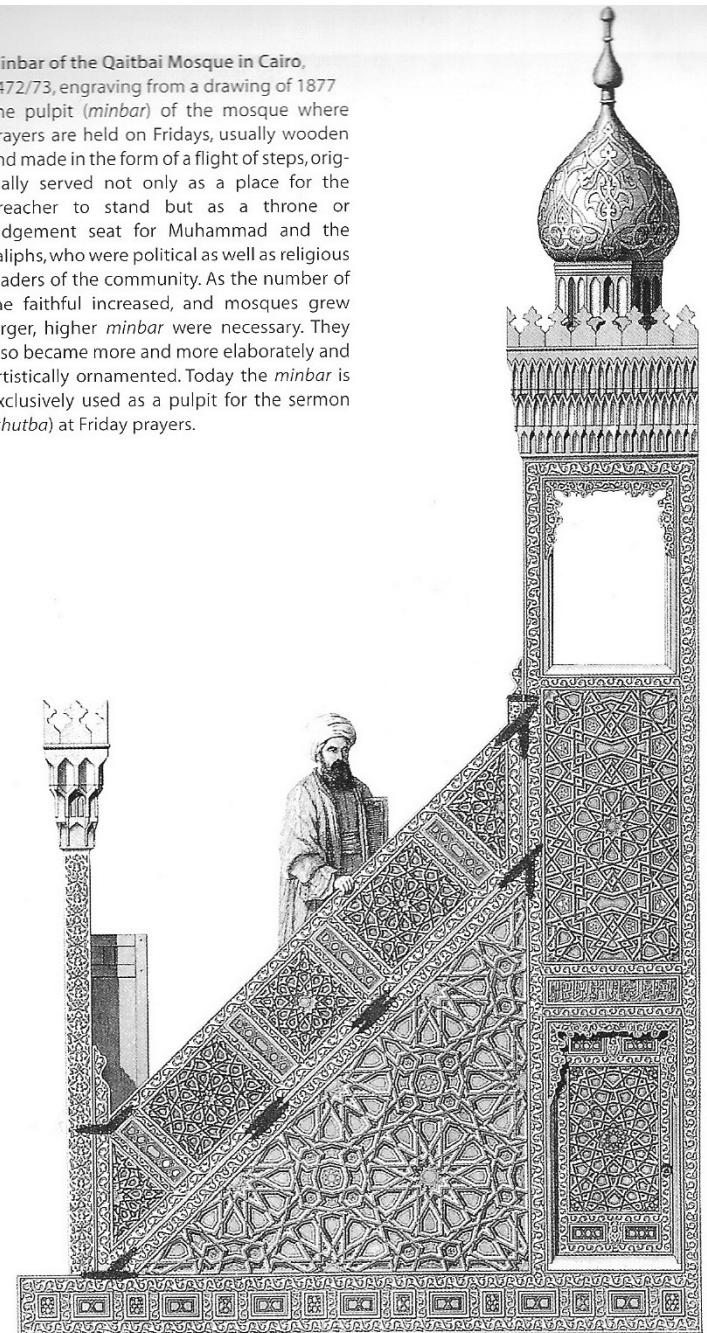
Section shows the impressive height of the dome, rising 30 meters above the rock.



Masjid / Mosque

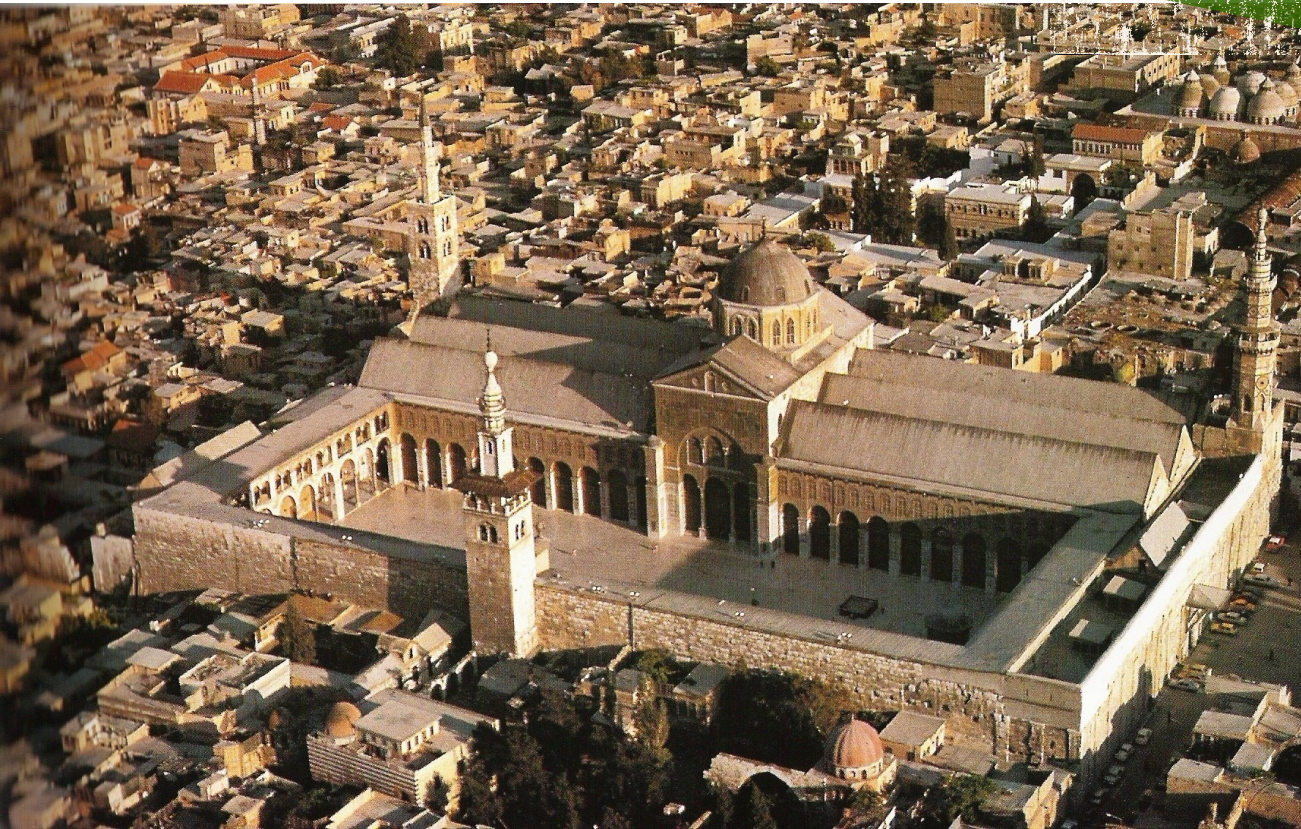
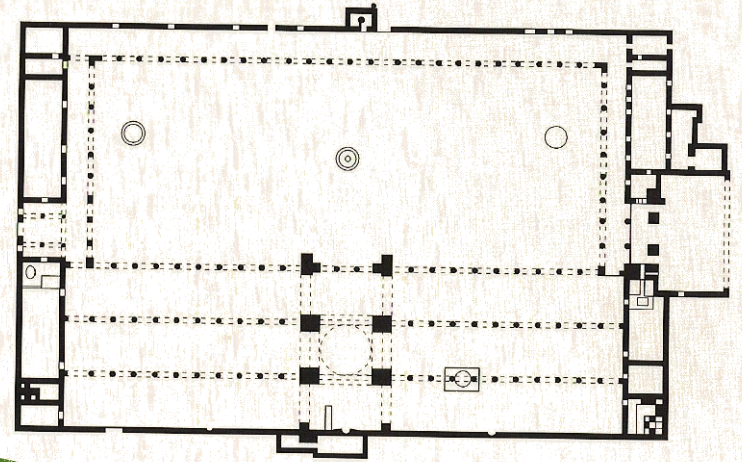
- **Minbar:** (stepped pulpit) dates back to the time of the prophet. Used for sermons proclamations, and readings.

Minbar of the Qaitbai Mosque in Cairo, 1472/73, engraving from a drawing of 1877
The pulpit (*minbar*) of the mosque where prayers are held on Fridays, usually wooden and made in the form of a flight of steps, originally served not only as a place for the preacher to stand but as a throne or judgement seat for Muhammad and the caliphs, who were political as well as religious leaders of the community. As the number of the faithful increased, and mosques grew larger, higher *minbar* were necessary. They also became more and more elaborately and artistically ornamented. Today the *minbar* is exclusively used as a pulpit for the sermon (*khutba*) at Friday prayers.



•GREAT MOSQUE OF DAMASCUS

•Representative examples:



Iwan .. A vaulted hall opening onto a courtyard.

Used in both religious building and secular ones.

•Representative examples:

•**GREAT MOSQUE OF DAMASCUS**



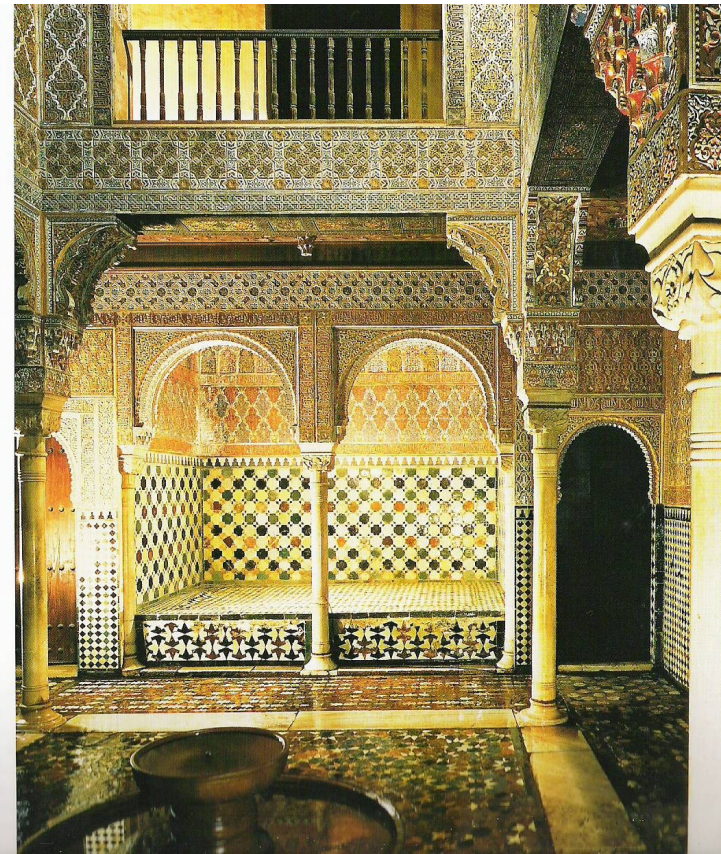
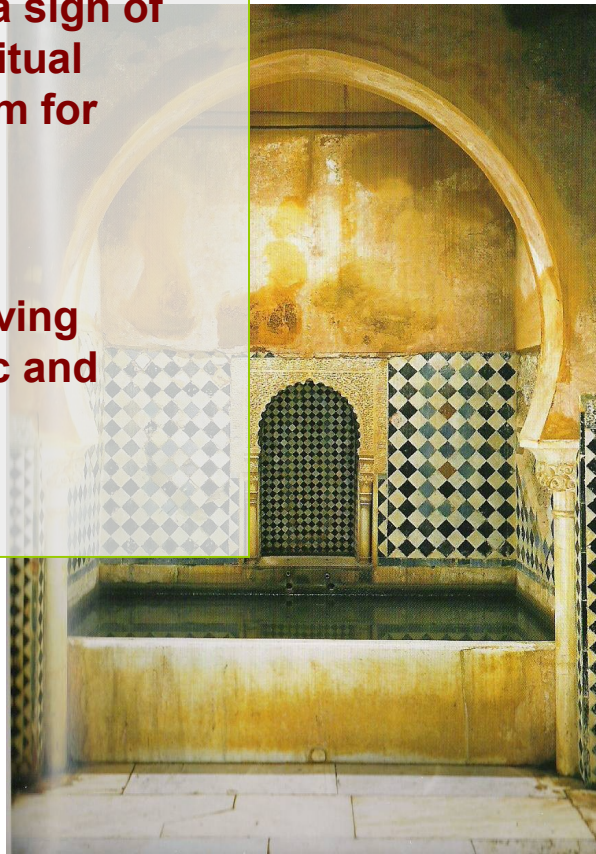
Maida'a

•Representative examples:

•PUBLIC PATHS

Public paths considered one of the mean building types in Islamic city. Not only as a sign of wealth but to meet a spiritual need and duty of a Muslim for purification.

Its role exceeded the serving function to social, artistic and spiritual gathering



•Representative examples:

•PALACES

Alhambra Fortress



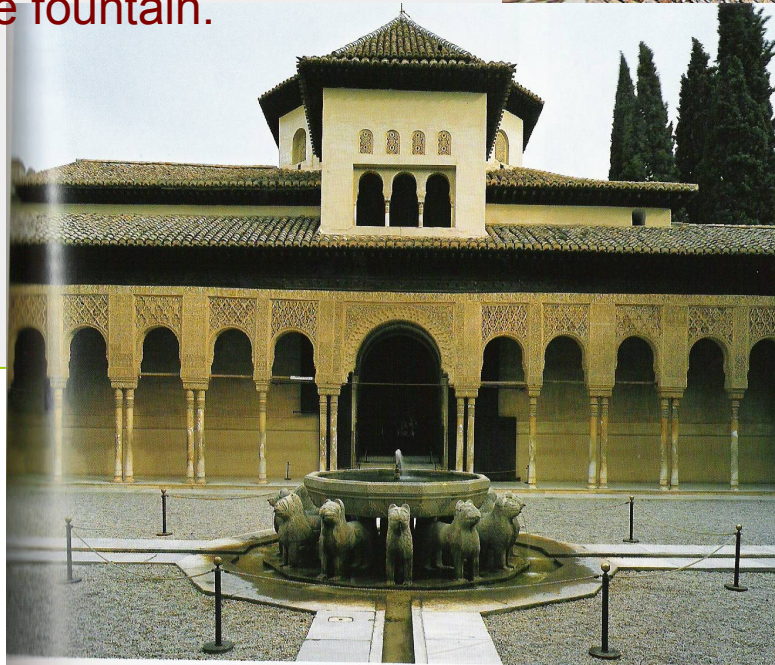
•Representative examples:

•PALACES

The palace of the lions

The fountain in the court of lions

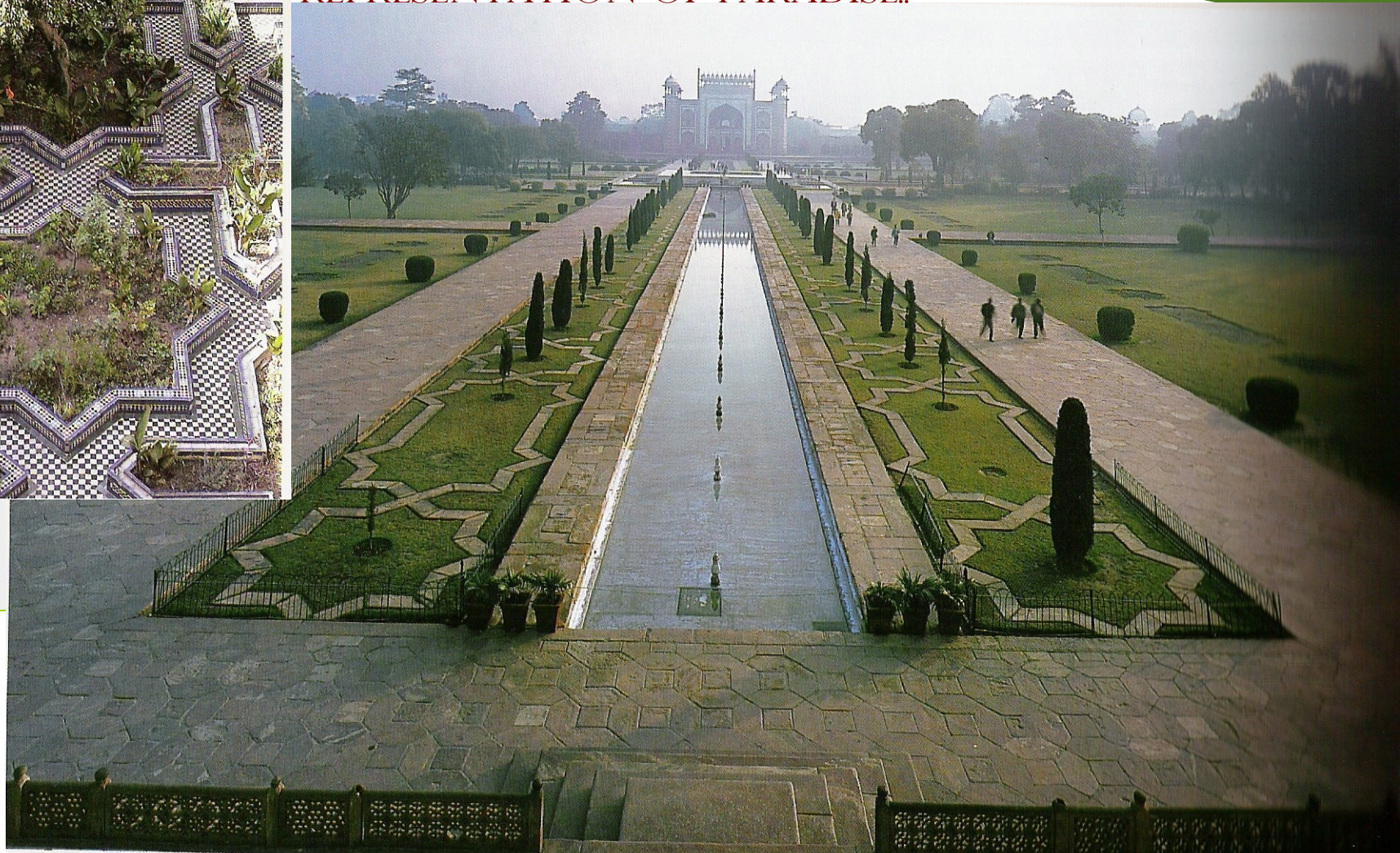
Even in the 14th Cent a complex of hydraulic system provided sufficient water pressure and a constant water level in the fountain.



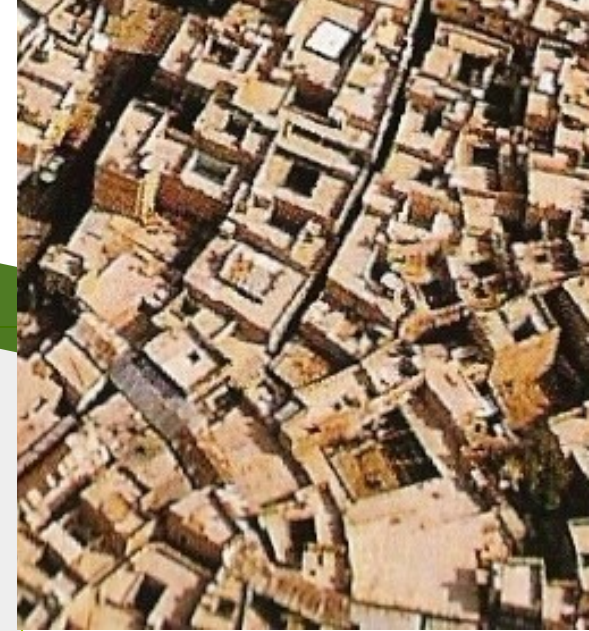
•Representative examples:

•**GARDENS**

REPRESENTATION OF PARADISE..

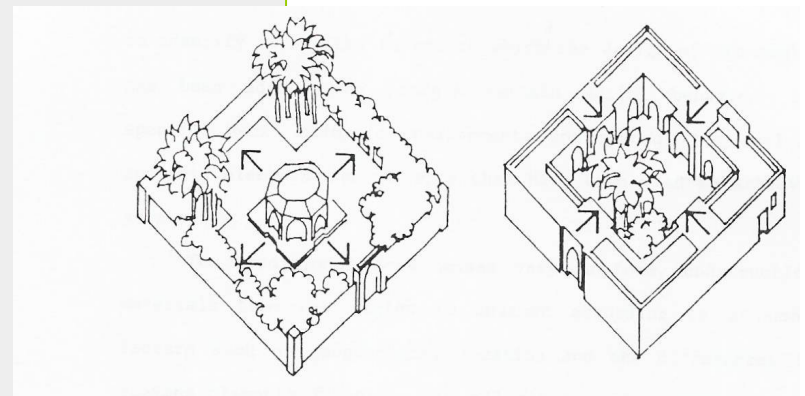


•From the house unit into the urban fabric :



/The courtyard

1. It has been the key element in the Arab house.
2. It works as a natural open environment for practicing the family private social activities.
3. It also works as a natural modifier to the prevailing climate.
4. In addition, it is the main source of natural lighting for the house.



•From the house unit into the urban fabric :

The city's plan has a different levels of spaces developed in a hierarchy, from the very private space in the house to the very public spaces where communal activities are practiced. The settlement's open spaces were developed from the house level to the neighborhood and through the quarter to the level of the city.

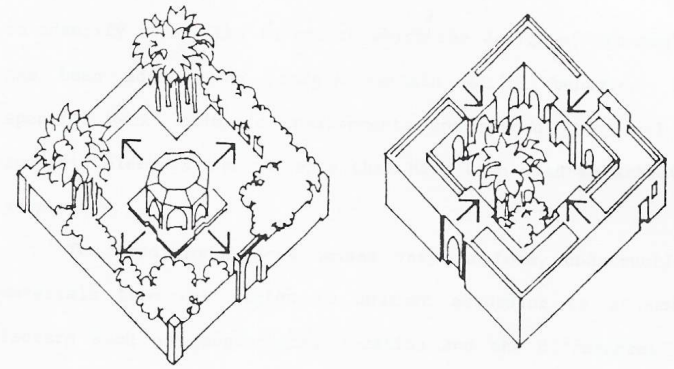


Figure 4.7 In the traditional Arab settlements, buildings and plants were seen as a unity of experience and design.



Figure The use of plants in developing natural cooling system for building units.

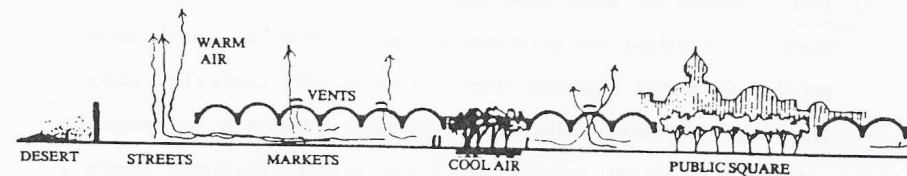
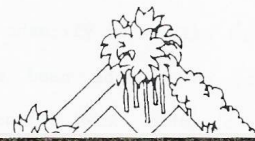


Figure Public gardens linked to market spaces worked along similar principles, where the cool air of the gardens is drawn through the wider open spaces providing an effective cooling system for the entire city.



•Modern examples:

•ARAB ORGANIZATIONS HEADQUARTER

Shuwaik, blends modern architectural techniques with traditional artisan crafts. Completed in 1994



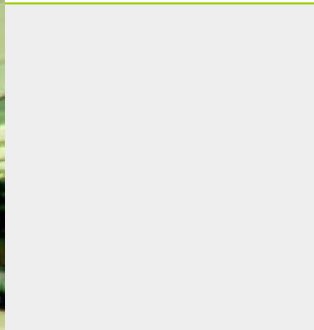
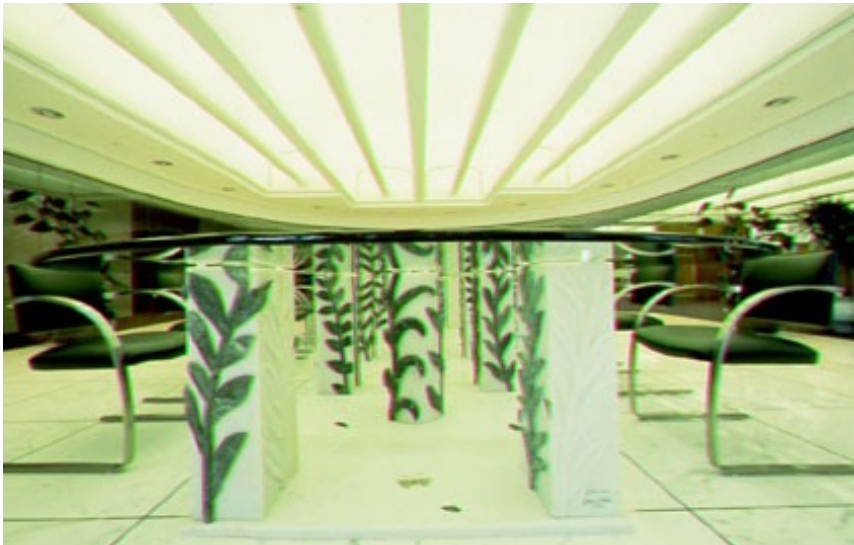
•Modern examples:

•**ARAB ORGANIZATIONS
HEADQUARTER**



•Modern examples:

•ARAB ORGANIZATIONS HEADQUARTER



•Modern examples:

•ARAB ORGANIZATIONS HEADQUARTER



•Modern examples:

•THE GRAND MOSQUE, KUWAIT

- Built as Andalusia style , Opened in 1984
- designed by Iraqi Architect Muhammed Makia
- Area 45,000 square meters



•Modern examples:

•THE GRAND MOSQUE, KUWAIT



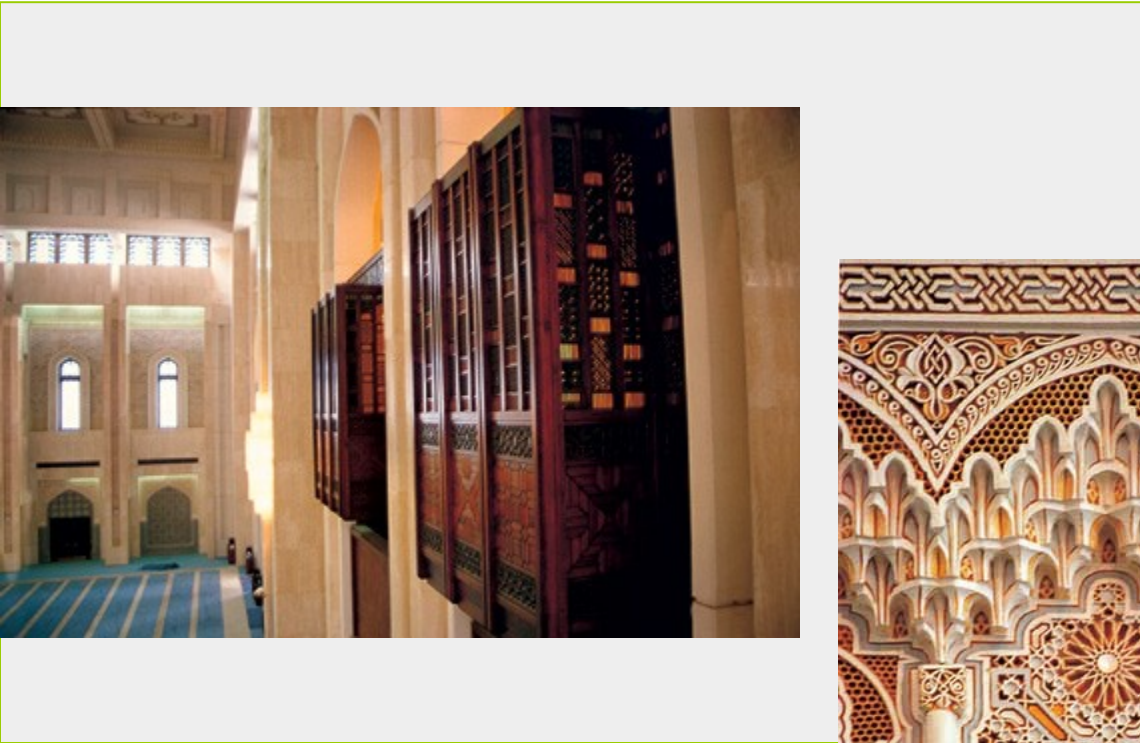
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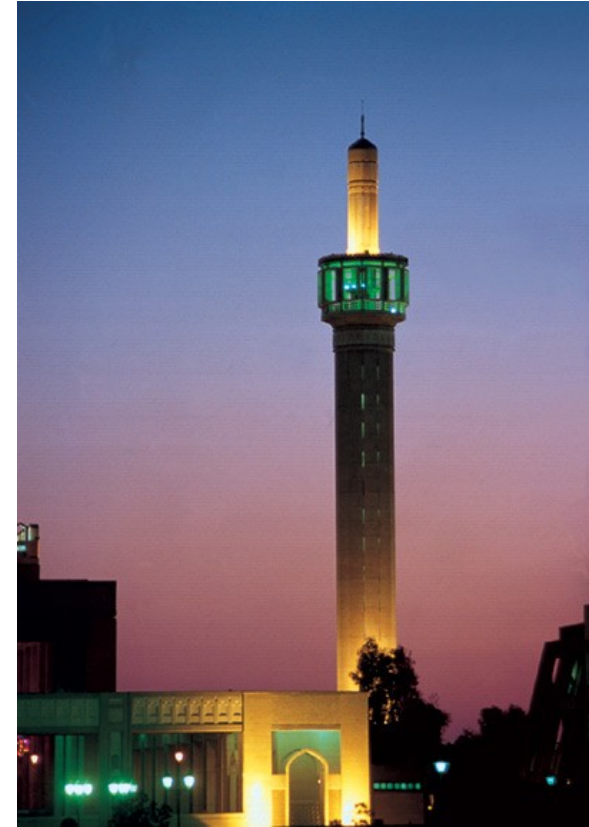
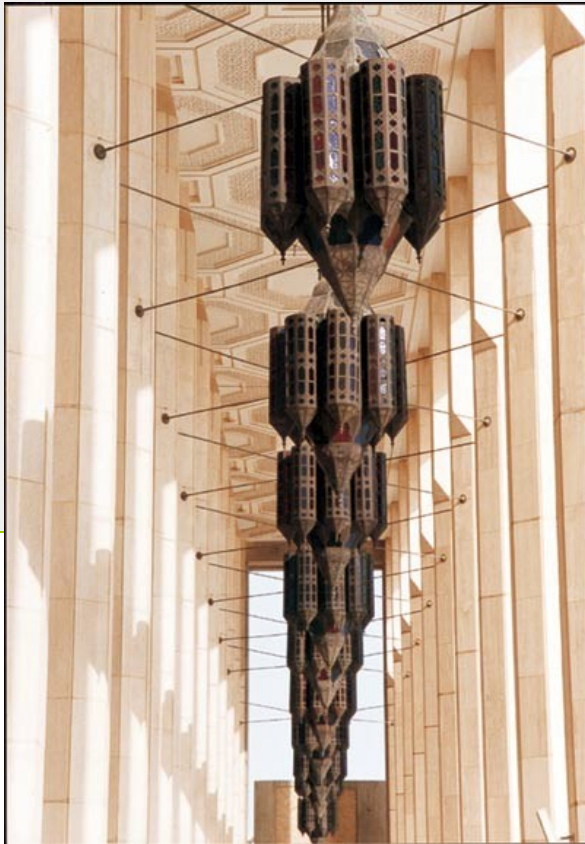
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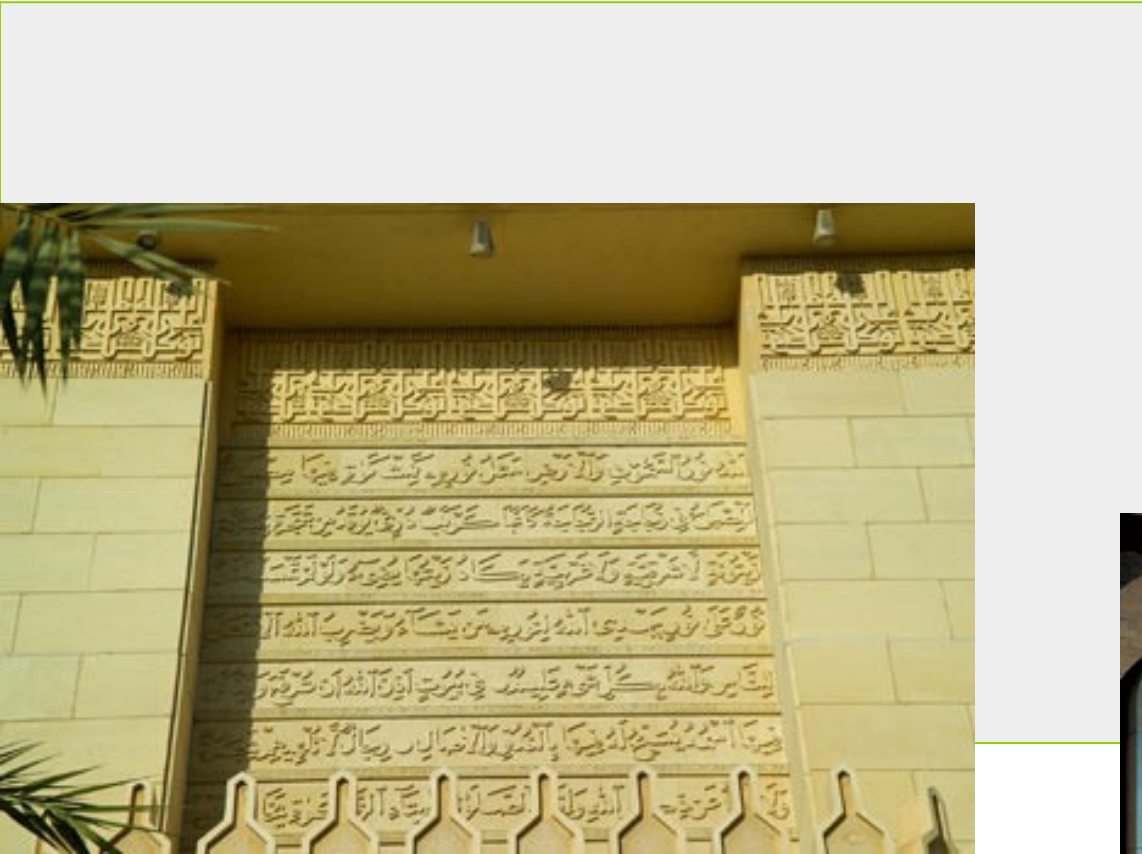
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•Modern examples:

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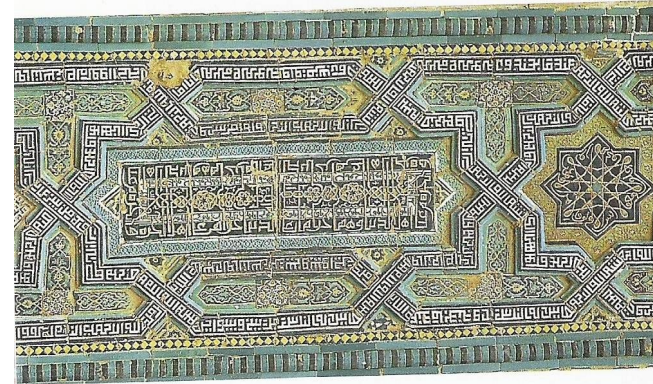
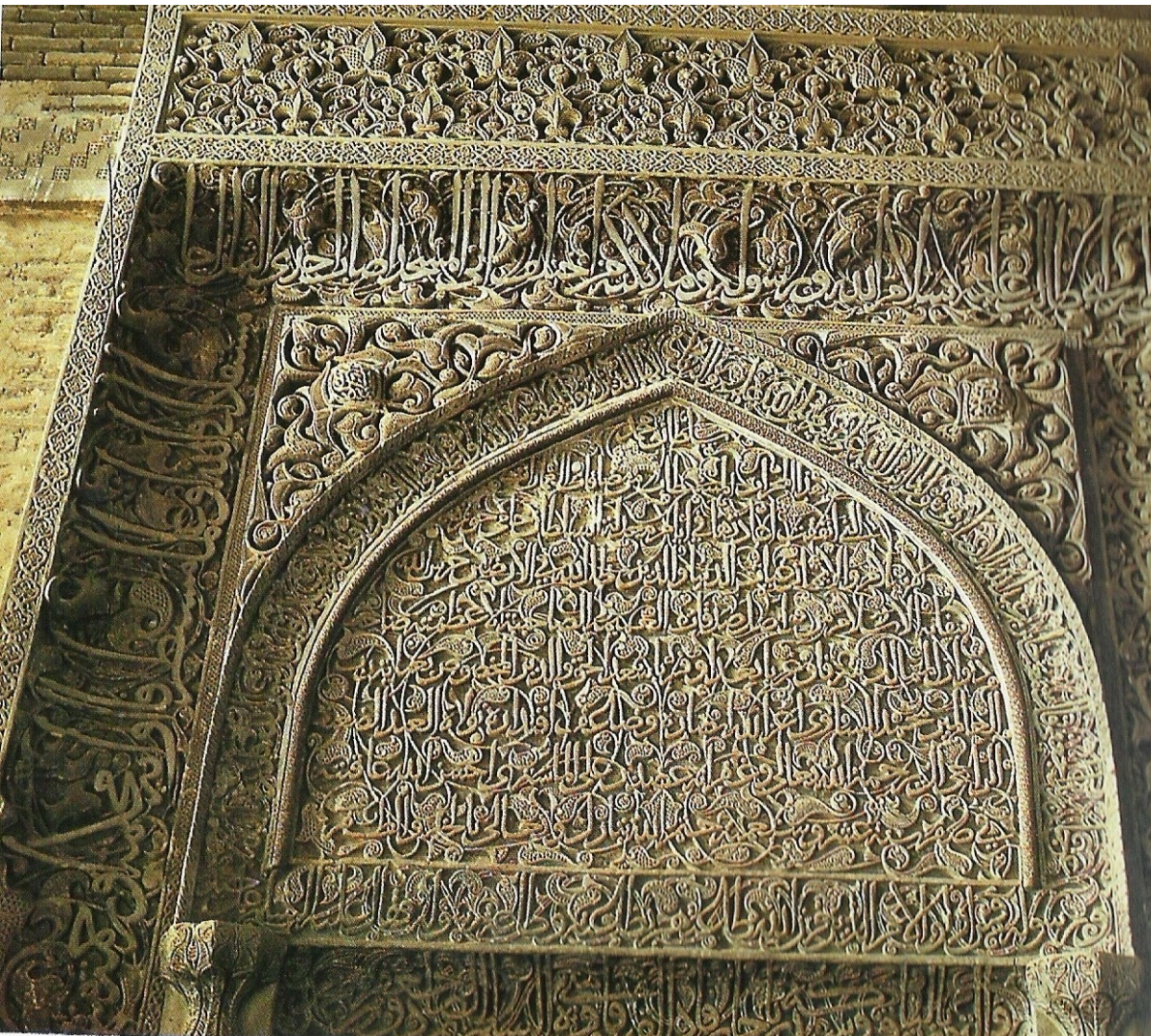
•ORNAMENTATIONS AND CALLIGRAPHY:



the use of classical Arabic for all religious purposes, firm the religious bond of the Muslim community



•ORNAMENTATIONS AND CALLIGRAPHY:

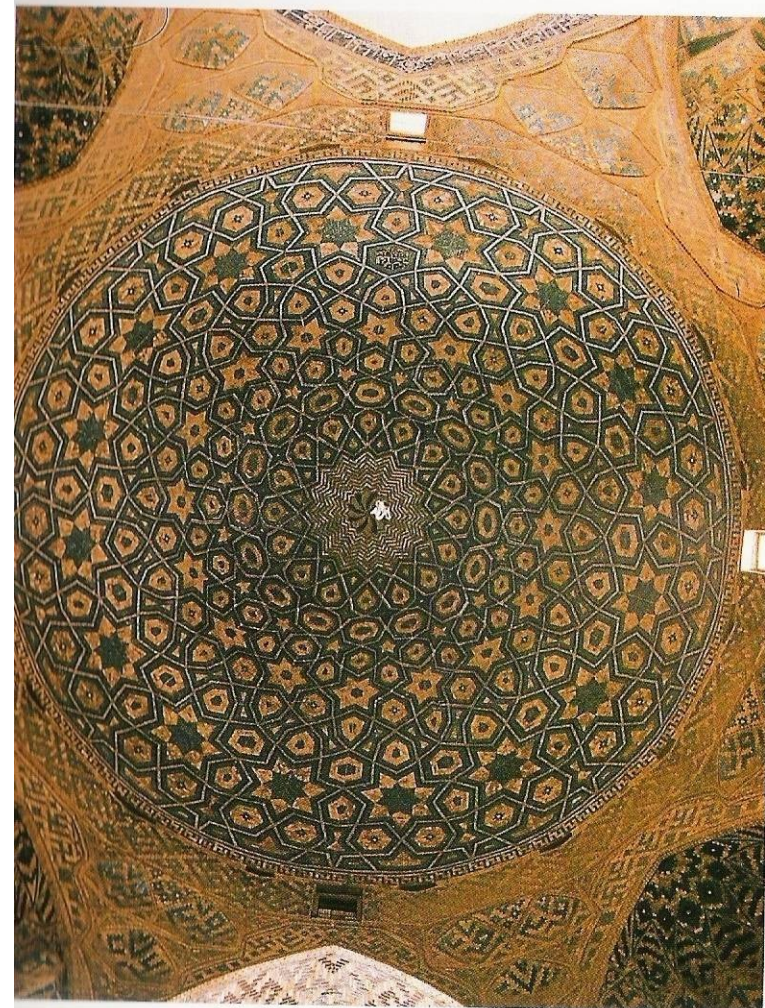


*Verses of Quran Carved
out the wall*

•ORNAMENTATIONS AND CALLIGRAPHY:

Arabesque is a general term for the Islamic ornamentations, geometric or non geometric, simple and complex ones, circular and rectangular, curvy and non curvey, plants or calligraphy.

Arabesque is a unique Islamic art, defined as repetitive ornamentation with no end.



•ORNAMENTATIONS AND CALLIGRAPHY:

Muslims believe of monotheism derived them to produce this unique type of art. In which one can preserve UNITY WITHIN VARIETY

Repetition and Endless Geometric shapes and ornaments in Islamic architecture was a representation of the Eternity of the God



•References:

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Thank you .

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